

Kissinger A Rockefeller Agent?

THOSE of us who have been sifting the sands of the Potomac to see what the Republican tide has washed in have come upon the footprints of Henry Kissinger. There have even been glimpses through the mist of Mr. Kissinger within whispering distance of President-elect Ronald Reagan's ear.

No less than ex-President Ford has urged Mr. Reagan to bring back Mr. Kissinger to call the foreign-policy plays. It would be a controversial appointment.

No one questions Mr. Kissinger's qualifications. He possesses a calm mastery of foreign affairs, an easy command of strategic concepts and tactical details. He is also an impressive man, even magnetic.

But it is part of his magnetism that he gives off discordant vibrations. He has an air about him of detached intellectuality combined with a soft, droll, disarming manner. But I have detected a tenseness in him, a sense of beleaguerment.

Those who know the man say he does nothing gratuitously; all is programmed to advance his objectives. More than a few wary watchers suspect Mr. Kissinger is a Trojan Horse planted by the Rockefeller interests inside the nation's highest councils.

In the mid-1950s, he directed a series of foreign-policy studies for the Rock-



efeller Brothers Fund. During Nelson Rockefeller's quest for the presidency in 1968, newsmen seeking his foreign-policy views would be told: "Go see Henry."

Later, Mr. Kissinger held back from entering Richard Nixon's administration until it was clear that Mr. Rockefeller would not be asked to join the Cabinet. Even after Mr. Kissinger became a power in Washington, he remained deferential to Mr. Rockefeller. Associates recall, for instance, that Mr. Kissinger usually returned Mr. Rockefeller's calls ahead of the president's.

In 1973, Mr. Rockefeller said of Mr. Kissinger: "He's never let me down, and he's never let the country down." Their relationship was such that Mr. Rockefeller announced Mr. Kissinger's engagement to Nancy Maginnes and provided a plane for their honeymoon trip.

Mr. Kissinger, meanwhile, brought David Rockefeller, chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank, into the State Department as an adviser. When the Republicans were turned out in 1976, Mr. Rockefeller named Mr. Kissinger chairman of the Chase Manhattan's international advisory committee.

In a series of columns four years ago, I identified the late Shah of Iran as the leading drum-beater for a gigantic oil price increase. His megalomaniacal confidence that the United States would tolerate it rested on the delightful relationship he had developed with Henry Kissinger.

Mr. Nixon and Mr. Kissinger sought to build up the shah as the protector of American interests in the Persian Gulf

area, rather than face the difficulties of having the United States look after these interests more directly. They quietly agreed that the shah should be allowed to raise more oil revenue to bankroll the vast responsibilities they were encouraging him to undertake.

It was at least an intriguing coincidence that the shah's stupendous oil profits were channeled largely through the Chase Manhattan Bank. The shah insisted "that all letters of credit for the purchase of oil go through Chase Manhattan," an Iranian oil official told me.

The Rockefellers were also partners with the shah in banking ventures and real-estate deals. Then after the shah was deposed, he turned to Mr. Kissinger and David Rockefeller, who arranged temporary refuges for him in Nassau and Mexico before they finally persuaded President Carter to admit him to the United States.

As secretary of state, Mr. Kissinger thwarted every proposal to prevent the oil gouge, save those concerned with ways to finance the rising oil bills. This must go down in history as a colossal failure which has dwarfed and undermined whatever his other achievements may have been.

When Mr. Ford asked the president-elect to consider Mr. Kissinger for secretary of state, Mr. Reagan amiably rejected the recommendation. But that was several weeks ago. Mr. Kissinger has now eased his way quietly, gently, almost invisibly into the anteroom of the Reagan administration. As one associate put it: "You should never underestimate Kissinger's charm."